Namdhari's

In Papers

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NAMDHARI SIKH STUDIES
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Trace of rain makes the day

150th year of Kuka movement
Major celebrations on the cards
Aditi Tandon
Tribune News service

MAIN PROPOSALS

- Enquiry into circumstances of death of Satguru Ram Singh of Kuka Movement
- Memorial at Sri Bhaini Sahib, Raiyan, Ludhiana, Raikot and Amritsar
- Reinstallation of portraits of Kuka martyrs in Punjab civil and mini secretariats
- Release of postal stamp and coins to commemorate the event
- Rail link to Bhaini Sahib

Chandigarh, May 24, 2007
The Punjab government will celebrate 150th year of the Kuka movement in a big way. In a high level meeting chaired by chief secretary recently, it was decided to set up state and district level committees to commemorate the first call of Independence given by Satguru Ram Singh of the Kuka movement and build a memorial at Bhaini Sahib, from where the call was given.

The memorial is proposed to come up at a cost of Rs 60 crore. The government will also ask the Centre to set up an enquiry commission and establish the facts of wrong declaration of the death of Ram Singh, it was decided. Ram Singh was declared dead by the British in 1885.

Meanwhile, Kuka Martyrs Memorial Trust has met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to press for countrywide celebrations of the historic event. Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal will also approach the Prime Minister's office to set up a national committee under the Prime Minister for the purpose.

Sources said there was also a plan to develop a memorial at Raiyan village, the birthplace of Ram Singh. Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana has been told to submit a detailed project report in this regard. The plan will be prepared in consultation with the four-member committee constituted for the purpose by Sri Bhaini Sahib Raiyan Development Board. Similar memorials will come up at Ludhiana, Raikot and Amritsar. Vice-President, Namdhari Darbar Surinder Singh Namdhari has already submitted a proposal of Rs 310 crore for the construction of memorials. Meanwhile, chief minister will put up a detailed proposal to the Centre to release funds for the occasion.

Another decision taken at the meeting concerned construction of memorials in the name of Kuka martyrs in

villages. During the 90 year-long war against the British rule in India, several Kuka Sikhs sacrificed their lives. Ten were hanged, 65 blown off with cannons, several drowned in the sea. Punjab chief secretary will instruct all deputy commissioners to collect the details about Kuka martyrs and display a history board where ever necessary. The board will carry a picture of martyrs. Sources said portraits of Kuka martyrs will be reinstalled at Punjab civil and mini secretariats, as assured by the chief secretary.

Some proposals will be taken up with the Centre. These include the release of postal stamps and coins to mark 150 years of the Kuka movement. Chief secretary has admitted the proposal and asked secretary, public relations to take up the matter with the Centre. Moreover, Sri Bhaini Sahib is proposed to have a railway connection from Ludhiana to Chandigarh. The proposal to name a train after Kuka martyrs will also be discussed with the Union railway minister, secretary, archaeology, architecture and museums Jagjit Puri said. Another proposal is to press for reservation of seats for the Namdhari sect in Parliament. During the time of Jawahar Lal Nehru, Nihal Singh was the first Namdhari MP.

33rd World Vegetarian Congress

Chiang Mai, Thailand, January 4 - 10, 1999
His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj

Message from:
His Holiness Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji Maharaj
Supreme Spiritual Head of Namdharis Sikhs
For 33rd World Vegetarian Congress

It is heartening to learn that the 33rd World Vegetarian Congress is being jointly held by Thai Vegetarian Union and the International Vegetarian Union, the inauguration of which will be held on January 4, 1998 in Chiang Mai. It gives me further pleasure that it is the auspicious occasion of the 6th Cycle Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the Great King of Thailand and also the year for Promoting Amazing Thailand Tourism. Vegetarianism, now has a future ahead. On vegetarian diet five to six times the number of people living on earth can be fed. A time might come when all human beings will have to depend, by compulsion, upon vegetarianism to subsist.

Vegetarian food is intended not only for cleansing the body but also for the purification of soul since it is conducive for healthier, happier and longer life. Consumption of meat, fish, fowl, eggs both fertile and unfertile are detrimental to spiritual progress. Holy

initiation is possible only to those who abide by this regulation, scrupulously.
God has created the man as pioneer of all living beings. It is immoral, unethical and sinful on his part to kill and eat them. It pollutes the body, mind, and soul.

This momentous congress shall ponder over the vital facet of human existence, where eminent advocates and exponents of vegetarianism will exchange precious information and empirical knowledge. The logical exposition of this will facilitate the task of popularizing vegetarianism abstain from killing of animal kingdom and promoting the cause of world peace.
I admire you for performing the pious duty of organizing Vegetarian Congress. It is a sacred service to mankind and all living beings.

May Almighty bless you with the success in your noble mission.

Apollo Hospital gets international certification

Tribune Correspondent

From left) Jugdiep Singh, Dr G.L. Avasthi, Dr S.P. Singh, Shiv Kumaran and Dr P.S. Bhatia display the JCI certificate awarded to SPS Apollo Hospitals in Ludhiana on Tuesday. —Tribune photo by Inderjit Verma

Ludhiana, June 5,2007
Satguru Partap Singh Apollo Hospitals here has achieved global accreditation from Joint Commission International (JCI), USA.

Addressing a news conference here today, Apollo executive director Jugdiep Singh said, "JCI, the gold standard in healthcare, focuses on areas that have a direct impact on patient care. These include access to care, assessment of patients, infection control, patient and family rights and education. JCI also addresses facility management and safety, staff qualifications and education,

quality improvement, organisational leadership and management of information, with almost 1,033 measurable elements."

According to Dr G.L. Avasthi, director medical services at Apollo, the JCI accreditation was awarded after a rigorous on-site evaluation by team of international health-care experts, who appraised the hospital, based on international standards of infection control, medication management, quality improvement processes, patient care, safety issues and structural compliance like building and fire safety, procurement of materials, water supply, and uninterrupted power supply for controlled and quality patient outcome.

Dr S. P. Singh, COO, Apollo, said it was indeed an honour for the institution to be awarded the JCI accreditation within just two years of the hospital's inception.

Speaking at the occasion, medical superintendent Dr P.S. Bhatia expressed hope that the JCI healthcare quality accreditation will raise the standards of healthcare in the region, and also lead to more and more NRI's and foreign nationals to this region, thereby giving an impetus to the medical tourism in the region, which was expected to become a whopping $ 2.3 billion business for India by 2012.

Apollo to set up cancer unit
Tribune Correspondent

Ludhiana, July 12
Satguru Partap Singh Apollo Hospitals here has decided to set up a new unit for cancer patients with an investment of Rs 25 crore at its existing facility. This was announced here today by Dr S.P. Singh, chairman of the hospital, while welcoming Dr Navdeep Singh, a renowned medical oncologist, who had joined Apollo as a consultant.

He said the hospital would also submit a proposal to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre for approval. Post expansion, the hospital would have 550 beds, as against the current strength of 350 beds. This was in line with the hospital's dream of providing one-stop solution for cancer patients.

With the joining of Dr Navdeep, the hospital would be in a position to offer treatment of all cancers like acute and chronic leukemias (blood cancer), lymphomas, myeloma and cancers of breast, lung, stomach, liver, gall bladder, intestine, colon, pancreas, bone, kidney, prostate, urinary bladder, ovary, uterus and skin.

According to Dr P.S. Bhatia, medical superintendent at Apollo, a team of health care professionals, including medical oncologists, surgeons, anaesthesiologist, oncology

nurses, oncology pharmacy specialist, pathologist, physiotherapist, plastic surgeon and reconstructive surgeon, each with a special role, will support patients during their assessment, treatment and follow-up care.

"The hospital has a backup for leukemia (blood cancer) chemotherapy, day care for other chemotherapy, isolation room for bone marrow transplant, excellent blood component support (blood, platelet and plasma transfusion). A one day cancer care camp is being organised at the hospital on coming Saturday to mark the launch of the new facility," he added.

First-ever Astro-turf in rural area
Prabhjot Singh
Tribune News Service

Bhaini Sahib, October 9,2004
India's first-ever Astro-turf in a rural area — Bhaini Sahib, near Ludhiana — and in the private sector has put the Namdharis in line for a unique distinction. Gifted by a Holland company, the Namdharis have spent Rs 42 lakh on the import, transportation and installation of the latest version of the polymer-based surface. Of this, Rs 10 lakh came as a special grant from the Punjab Government.

The Bhaini Sahib Astro-turf, which will be formally inaugurated on October 14 by the Chief Minister, Captain Amarinder Singh, will thus be the fifth such field in Punjab after Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Patiala. Ludhiana can now boast of two Astroturfs — other one is at Punjab Agricultural University.

Namdharis association with hockey dates back to 1978 when they started their team with former international Baldev Singh (of Nigeria) as their coach. Two years later, this team with its unique white sports gear — tapering turbans and knee-long "kachheras" (traditional Sikh costume) — was in headlines for winning the prestigious Jawahar Lal Nehru Hockey Tournament for juniors in New Delhi.

Known for their robust tactics and superb fighting qualities, it soon made a place for itself as one of top teams in the country, producing in the process some players for the national team. Namdhais could topple any top team any day and won several tournaments.

Hardeep Singh Grewal, Didar Singh Sr, Didar Singh Jr, Gurcharan Singh, Gurmukh Singh Gama and Harpal Singh are some of the top national players the sect has produced. Besides Baldev Singh (Nigeria), Baldev Singh (Shahbad Markanda) and Hardeep Singh Grewal have been responsible for coaching and training of their subsequent teams.

In fact, the head of the Namdhari sect, Satguru Jagjit Singh, has been a sportsman himself. Inspite of his old age, he is a regular badminton player. In his younger days, he dabbled in hockey. In fact, the love for this unofficial national sport has been in the blood of Namdhari sect. Thakur Udey Singh, a nephew of the Satguru, had been a hockey player himself. He was a contemporary of Surjit Singh, one of greatest deep defenders Punjab has produced in post-independence era.

"We plan to introduce Punjab state hockey league featuring top teams of the region," says Thakur Udey Singh revealing that Bangalore-based Namdhari Seeds, of which he is the Managing Director, would be its sponsor.

Mr Rashpal Singh, who looks after the Namdhari Hockey Academy, says that a special tubewell has been commissioned for watering the synthetic surface. He says that for optimum utilisation of the surface, the academy had chalked out a complete programme. The playfield would be made available to other teams for training and practice games also.

GNDU organised National seminar on Namdhari Movement

JAGMOHAN SINGH

Thursday, 18 September 2008

AMRITSAR: The basic contribution of Namdhari Movement would also be studied along with the in-depth study of various aspects of the Namdhari Movement. The need of the hour is to preach the teachings of Namdhari Guru Ram Singh to get rid of sufferings of human beings. These views were expressed by eminent scholars who gathered here today to. participate in the One-day National. Seminar on Namdhari Movement. This seminar was organised by Namdhari Guru Ram Singh Chair of Guru
Nanak Dev University at Conference Hall.
Vice-chancellor GNDU , Prof. Dr. Jai Rup Singh presided over. Thakur Uday Singh, a kin of Baba Ram Singh and Managing Director of Seeds Corporation, Bangalore was the chief guest this occasion. Dr.Mohinder Singh, Director Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan delivered the keynote address. More than 20 research papers on Kuka Lehar, Revolt of 1857, Role of the peasants of Punjab during Kuka Lehar and Role of Namdhari Sants and Mahants to popularise Namdhari Mission were presented on this occasion.

In this context, Dr. Mohinder Singh dwelt at length upon the Non-CooperationMovement started by Namdhari Guru Ram Singh in the late 19th Century and the role of sikhs in 1857 Revolt.
Thakur Uday Singh, a kin of Baba Ram Singh and Managing Director of seed corporation, Bangalore while speaking on this occasion said that the founder of Sikh Religion Guru Nanak Dev preached the message of welfare of humanity and to respect all religions. He said Namdhari Darbar is equally respectful to Sri,Guru Granth Sahib as other sikhs are.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Jai Rup Singh said that the basic contributions of Namdharis should also be studied along with indepth study of Namdhari Lehar.
Prof Nazer Singh examined the origin of Namdhari Movement in the historiography of Punjab and discovered variations in this regard. Swaran Singh Virk examines the role of Namdhari Sants, Babas and Mahants in percolating the Namdhari ideas in the second half of 19th century. These local leaders, of course, sought inspiration from Namdhari Guru Ram Singh.

Namdhari Sant Khalsa march on March 28
Tribune News Service

CHANDIGARH, March 23,1999 — Eminent artistes, including Vilyat Khan, Rajan Mishra and Sajan Mishra, performed at the Sangeet Sammelan organised by the Namdhari darbar at Bhaini Sahib.

Mr Gurbhajan Singh Sanyasi, a spokesman of the darbar, said Satguru Jagjit Singh of Namdhari Darbar was the brain behind this Sammelan which concluded today.

He said the Namdhari Sant Khalsa march would start from Bhaini Sahib on March 28.

He added that the march would be received by Prof Manjit Singh, Jathedar of Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib, and the Punjab Chief Minister, Mr Parkash Singh Badal, at Anandpur Sahib.

Namdhari Khalsa march ends
From Tribune Reporters

ANANDPUR SAHIB, March 28 ,1999— A massive "Namdhari Sant Khalsa march", led by Satguru Jagjit Singh, head of Namdhari sect, taken out in connection with the tercentenary celebrations of the birth of the Khalsa, ended at Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib here today.

The march, which covered a distance of about 125 km and passed through Samrala, Khamano, Morinda, Boormajra, Ropar and Kiratpur Sahib, began today after the performance of "ardas" from Bhaini Sahib in Ludhiana district.
Thousands of Namdharis, clad in their traditional white dress, thronged this "white city".

The march was received by Mr Parkash Singh Badal, Chief Minister, along with Mr Charanjit Singh Atwal, Speaker, Punjab Vidhan Sabha, Mr Tara Singh Ladhal, MLA, Anandpur Sahib, Mr Jarnail Singh Aulakh and Jathedar Pritam Singh Sallomajra, both members of the SGPC from Anandpur Sahib and Chamkaur Sahib, respectively, near the "welcome gate" here on Ropar-Anandpur Sahib Road.

Talking to mediapersons, Mr Badal appealed to all heads of sects to come here and join the tercentenary celebrations. He said he welcomed all, irrespective of the

caste, creed and religion, as his Guru had taught him to seek "sarbat da bhalla". He added that this message of the Gurus would be disseminated throughout the world, especially during the tercentenary celebrations.

The march was accompanied by Mr H.S. Hanspal, former MP and president of Namdhari darbar, Bhaini Sahib, Mr Darshan Singh Brar, former minister, Mr Surinder Singh, Mr Jagdish Singh waryam and Mr Gurbhajan Singh Sanyasi, vice-president, general secretary and press secretary of the Namdhari darbar, respectively.

Later, Mr Badal and Satgur Jagjit Singh visited Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib along with others and paid obeisance. Giani Tarlochan Singh, Head Granthi of the Takht presented "siropa" to Mr Badal, Satguru Jagjit Singh, Mr H.S. Hanspal and Mr Manoranjan Kalia, Punjab Health Minister.

According to Mr Gubhajan Singh Sanyasi, press secretary of the Namdhari darbar, Namdharis from Australia, Canada, Africa, England, Germany, America, Dubai and Bangkok also participated.

LUDHIANA: Earlier the Namdhari sangat recited 'Assa Di Var' in wee hours at Bhani Sahib and then the yatra began after paying respect to Sat Guru Jagjit Singh. The route was decorated and welcome arches were put up at regular intervals.

The 'yatra' was received in Ludhiana district at Samrala by Jathedar Kirpal Singh Khirnia, a member of the SGPC, Mr Amrik Singh, MLA, Mr Fateh Singh and a few BJP leaders. People from various villages like Katani Kalan, Katani Khurd, Kot Gangu Rai, Neelon, Bijalipur, Ghulal Chehlan Bondli etc gathered in large number to greet the 'yatra' in which Namdhari sangat was reciting 'simran'.

FEROZEPORE: The local Bhai Mardana Kirtan Darbar society organised a Sanjhiwalta Shatabadi march here on Saturday jointly with other religious and social organisations in connection with tercentenary celebrations of the birth of the Khalsa. Special welcome gates were set up at several places. March started from Housing Board Colony and terminated at the same place in the evening after passing through different areas in the city and cantonment. The march was attended among others by the Minister of State for Cooperation and Sainik Welfare, Mr Jameija Singh Sekhon and the society president Mr Harpal Singh Bhullar. According to Mr Bhullar purpose of march was to spread message of brotherhood among masses

Namdhari Guru prays for peace
From Vimal Sumbly
Tribune News Service

JEEVAN NAGAR (Sirsa), March 6,1999 — The leader of the Namdhari sect Guru Jagjit Singh, has exhorted the youth to preserve their cultural roots and not get swayed by westernisation. Talking to TNS during the Hola Mohalla function organised here between March 2 and 5, Guru Jagjit Singh cautioned against the evil influence of western culture on the youth of the country.

It was the fortieth Hola Mohalla function organised during the lifetime of Guru Jagjit Singh and for the fourth time it was held in this small village. At least 50,000 devotees from all over the country and abroad took part in the function. Guru Jagjit Singh delivered the concluding address today.

He prayed for peace, amity and brotherhood. He pointed out that the very purpose of organising the Hola Mohalla function was to strengthen brotherhood and amity among the people.

Guru Jagjit Singh said the Namdharis would also be celebrating tercentenary of the birth of the Khalsa. Special functions will be organised to mark the occasion. He disclosed that a Namdhari yatra would be organised from Bheni Sahib, near Ludhiana, to Anandpur Sahib on March

28. The 125-km yatra would be led by Guru Jagjit Singh himself. It would be received by the Punjab Chief Minister, Mr Parkash Singh Badal, and his Cabinet colleagues at Anandpur Sahib.

The Guru refused to comment on the ongoing tussle within the Akali Dal. He said he only prayed and hoped that peace and goodwill would prevail among all sections. He hoped the tercentenary celebrations of the birth of the Khalsa would pass off peacefully and with traditional gaiety.

The Namdhari sect has been instrumental in setting up a chain of educational institutions in the northern region. At present, five colleges are being run by the sect, one each at mandi, Jeevan Nagar, Delhi, Bheni Sahib and Chandigarh. The sect also plans to start a school at Amritsar, which will impart religious education. The sect is also running a college in Thailand, where students from 30 countries are admitted.

The sect has also been hooked on the Internet for the past six months. According to Mr Dayal Singh, the mela in-charge, all information about the Namdhari sect is provided on the Internet. This has also helped in spreading the message of peace, love and brotherhood across the globe, he pointed out.

Former Rajya Sabha member H.S. Hanspal was also present on the occasion. People from the USA, Canada, the UK and Gulf countries also attended the five-day-long celebrations. As many as 40 religious jathas from across the country presented kirtan.

Several marriages were also solemnised on the occasion. These marriages were organised according to traditional Hindu rites, but without other formalities. Mr Dayal Singh said these marriages were organised to inspire other youth in going in for simple and dowryless marriages.

Myanmar forms panel to study guru's life
Tribune News Service

LUDHIANA, July 8, 2000 — The Myanmar Government has set up a three-member committee to study the life and disappearance of Namdhari Guru Satguru Ram Singhji who was imprisoned in that country for initiating the famous Kuka movement against the British rule in India in the 1870s.

Efforts were also on to raise a memorial in the form of a public utility service like a hospital or a school in Myanmar in memory of the Namdhari guru.

Announcing this at a press conference here today, Mr Surinder Singh Namdhari, Vice-President of the Trust, said a five-member delegation of the Kuka Martyrs Memorial Trust which included Namdharis, research scholars and historians visited Myanmar from June 11 to 24 to study the life of their guru in different jails of the country and to find out the truth behind different versions of his death as claimed by the Britons.

He said the team had found some vital clues and documents about the life spend by their guru in the jails. However, the mystery surrounding the Namdhari guru's disappearance (the sect claims that their guru was destined to live life up to the age of 250) is yet to be solved. The

team found evidence that their guru had not died because of dysentery in 1885 as claimed by the Britons since no prisoner was reported to have died of the ailment in the entire jail record of the country.

The team, according to him, had found clues that their guru had somehow gone to Malaysia from Myanmar and the Namdhari Trust would now send a team of researchers to that country. Mr Surinder Singh said the visit would be scheduled after permission from the Centre.

However, he said the research would continue in Myanmar and the sect had offered research scholarship to interested scholars there to study the life spent by their guru in the country. The research would be taken up in association with Yangoon University.

Giving details about the delegation's success, Mr Surinder Singh said the team brought a number of files pertaining to their guru along with maps of old jails and pictures of the places where there guru was kept.

Namdhari Chair announced
From Tribune Reporters

AMRITSAR, Nov 22 —Despite the state government's failure to release money for its four existing four chairs, Chief Minister Punjab Mr Parkash Singh Badal today announced the creation of yet another chair this one Namdhari Guru Ram Singh at a special function organised at Dashmesh auditorium of Guru Nanak Dev University here today. Baba Jagjit Singh, chief of the Namdhari sect presided over the function.

To the Chief Minister's chagrin Dr Harish Puri, head Dr Ambedkar Chair, speaking on the occasion actually pointed out that chairs established in the university had not received any grant for a long time. He expressed the hope that the newly established chair in the name of the Namdhari Guru would not meet the same fate. At this, Mr Badal promptly announced that all the chairs established in the names of religious personalities and Dr Ambedkar won't face financial problems in future. "We will release sufficient grants so that research work on these revered personalities is not hit for want of funds", he said.

On Baba Ram Singh Mr Badal said he was a great revolutionary who launched a massive movement against British imperialism and started the non-cooperation movement against the British. They formed a parallel

organisation. To defy the British Empire and Namdharis laid down their lives for the Independence struggle.

The Chief Minister lamented that no government so far had recognised the sacrifices of Punjabis adding that martyrs were not associated with any sect or region.

Namdhari chief Baba Jagjit Singh, who presided over the function, said while there was turmoil everywhere peace could be achieved through nam and simran. He thanked Dr Soch for his sincere efforts for the of establishment of this chair.

‘Satguru’ may land Badal in trouble
Tribune News Service

AMRITSAR, Nov 22 — Chief Minister, Parkash Singh Badal today caused a flutter when he used the word "Satguru" while announcing establishment of "Namdhari Guru Ram Singh" chair in the Guru Nanak Dev University. This could spark another controversy as in Sikhism there is no living guru. The last guru is ‘Guru Granth Sahib’ (the holy Sikh scripture). Many Sikh scholars present at Dashmesh Auditorium when Mr Badal addressed Namdhari Guru Ram Singh as "Satguru", strongly objection to use of the word.

Seminar on Namdhari Sikhs of 20th century
Tribune News Service

Amritsar, February 23, 2010
More than 120 scholars participated in the seminar on "Namdhari Sikh of 20th century" organised by Namdhari Guru Ram Singh Chair of Guru Nanak Dev University here on Monday.

Vice-Chancellor A.S. Brar presided over the seminar, while eminent scholar Dr Satinder Singh Noor delivered the inaugural address and Dr Sukhdev Singh from Punjabi University, Patiala, delivered the keynote address.

Among others, H.S Hanspal, MP and President of Namdhari Darbar, Surinder Singh and Dr Harish Sharma were also present.

Brar stressed on the writing of history based on scientific facts.

Sukhdev Singh said the contribution of Kuka Andolan was commendable in the freedom struggle. He said this was the first public revolt from Punjab against the British empire.

He said contribution of the Namdhari movement for the rehabilitation of Namdhari Sikhs, social reforms, education, music and sports was unparalleled. He said that it was a

matter of concern that the youth in the contemporary society were indulging in drug addiction and social evils like female foeticide and dowry. He favoured adoption of the Namdhari ideals to get rid of these evils.

Satindar Singh Noor in his inaugural address said the Namdhari lehar was the real freedom movement and it should not be specified with a particular religion but a social movement which had its effect on Punjabis and Namdharis equally.

He claimed that in the writing of freedom struggle historians neglected Punjab, especially Sikhs and Namdharis. He said historians should approve sacrifies of the Namdharis in the freedom struggle against the British empire.

Earlier, Dr Joginder Singh, Head of the Namdhari Guru Ram Singh Chair, welcomed the chief guest and gave details about the seminar. Dr Sukhwant Singh, Head of the History Department, presented a vote of thanks.

Namdharis played big role in freedom struggle: Bhatia
Pawan Kumar

Amritsar, February 13,2006
The Namdhari movement had made a commendable contribution in the freedom struggle of India, but their political, social and religious contribution and the sacrifices for the nation is hardly known in other parts of the country.

Stating this, Mr Raghunandan Lal Bhatia, Governor of Kerala, expressed concern over the non-awareness about the contribution of the freedom fighters of the sect. He was presiding over the seminar on 'Namdhari Literature and History' organised by Namdhari Guru Ram Singh Chair of Guru Nanak Dev University here today.

He exhorted political, social scientists and historians of Punjab and the scholars of the university to come forward and highlight their political, cultural and religious contribution to make the coming generations aware of their sacrifices for the nation. Terming the Kuka movement as a blend of social, political and religious movements, the Governor said it had impressed the masses and the political, social and religious leaders of other sects also. This movement, he said, played a great role in social reform.

Dr Param Bakhshish Singh, Registrar of Punjabi University, Patiala, said the organisational structure of the Namdhari movement gave this mission cohesiveness and continuity. Passing through most difficult times in the initial stages, the mission withstood all attempts to curb its activities and emerged a force to be reckoned with.

Dr Joginder Singh, Chairman of Namdhari Guru Ram Singh Chair, said more than 15 papers were presented in the seminar.

He said the Chair had surveyed 500 families of Namdharis and concluded that there was a satisfactory ratio between men and women in the Namdhari fraternity and it had 50 per cent literacy. Now, eminent Namdhari scholars were producing literature and writing history.

Namdharis' role in women empowerment stressed
Tribune News Service

Ludhiana, May 8,2001
The Namdhari Movement has played a significant role in empowering Sikh women by promoting education, widow remarriage and their upward mobility in society. It has provided them with an opportunity to participate in the decision-making body of the sect. The movement had raised its voice against atrocities against women during the British period, when no one was ready to think about them.

These were the views of Dr Gurnam Kaur Bedi, Punjabi Department, Sarup Rani College for Women, Amritsar, in her paper on Namdhari Movement: Feminist Perspective and Social Awareness, presented at the international seminar on Namdhari Movement: History, Literature and Contribution at Bhaini Sahib, about 30 km from here today.

Mr Parkash Singh Badal, Chief Minister of Punjab, inaugurated the two-day seminar. Dr H.S. Soch, Vice-Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, welcomed the guests.

In the first session, Dr Joginder Singh, Department of History, GND varsity, in his paper, pointed out that the Namdhari Movement, despite its differences with the

mainstream Sikh religion, had worked as a reform movement in society. It had propagated simple way of living, struggle against superstition and colonialism, communal harmony and equal rights for women. A section of the Namdharis had entered trade and industry. There was clash in their professional ethics and religious values. There was a need to collect data on the demographic, social and other changes taking place in the community.

Dr Kudeep Singh, Department of History, SGAD College, Khadoor Sahib, said,''According to Namdharis' belief, struggle for freedom did not end with the transfer of power. The outer wounds or political slavery had been healed, leaving behind the ugly scars of communal hatred. The inner cancer throwing up poisonous virus and retarding the production of balanced healthy growth of economic , social, religious and political was still there.''

In the second session, Dr Surjit Kaur Jolly, Principal, S.P.M. College, Delhi University, said,''Today we talk about the rights of the child and the UN's charter on rights of children, but the Namdhari Gurus not only loved children, but used to educate the parents about their behaviour with children. They do not subscribe to caste system or discrimination. Baba Ram Singh, the founder of the sect, offered all the castes social mobility."

Dr Sarna Arora made a presentation about the contribution of Namdhari Darbar in the field of music. It had organised a number of music samelans in the different parts of the society. Other speakers included Dr R.S. Jaggi, Dr Jodh Singh, Dr Jasbir Singh Sabar, Dr Devinder Singh, Dr S.C. Sacdeva and Dr Baljit Kaur.

CELEBRATED: Nov 14,2000 The 81st birthday of the Namdhari chief, Baba Jagjit Singh, was observed with enthusiasm by his followers. In the morning, a religious congregation was organised at Namdhari Smarak in the city with kirtan recital by ragi jathas of Mr Iqbal Singh. Mr Darshan Singh, Mr Amrik Singh, Mr Sukhwinder Singh and the hazoori raagi jatha of Sant Harbans Singh. Speaking at the occasion, the Congress legislator, Mr Rakesh Pandey, recalled close association of his father, Mr Joginder Pal Pandey, a Punjab minister, with the Namdhari chief. Prominent among those present were Mr Surinder Singh Namdhari, Director, Satguru Partap Singh, Apollo Hospital, Mr Harbhajan Singh, Mr Jasbir Singh, Mr Dalip Singh Namdhari, Mr Ajit Singh Namdhari, Mr Jagmohan Singh and Mrs Sukhjit Kaur.

Namdhari Chair announced
From Tribune Reporters

AMRITSAR, Nov 22,1999 —Despite the state government's failure to release money for its four existing four chairs, Chief Minister Punjab Mr Parkash Singh Badal today announced the creation of yet another chair this one Namdhari Guru Ram Singh at a special function organised at Dashmesh auditorium of Guru Nanak Dev University here today. Baba Jagjit Singh, chief of the Namdhari sect presided over the function.

To the Chief Minister's chagrin Dr Harish Puri, head Dr Ambedkar Chair, speaking on the occasion actually pointed out that chairs established in the university had not received any grant for a long time. He expressed the hope that the newly established chair in the name of the Namdhari Guru would not meet the same fate. At this, Mr Badal promptly announced that all the chairs established in the names of religious personalities and Dr Ambedkar won't face financial problems in future. "We will release sufficient grants so that research work on these revered personalities is not hit for want of funds", he said.

On Baba Ram Singh Mr Badal said he was a great revolutionary who launched a massive movement against British imperialism and started the non-cooperation movement against the British. They formed a parallel

organisation. To defy the British Empire and Namdharis laid down their lives for the Independence struggle.

The Chief Minister lamented that no government so far had recognised the sacrifices of Punjabis adding that martyrs were not associated with any sect or region.

Namdhari chief Baba Jagjit Singh, who presided over the function, said while there was turmoil everywhere peace could be achieved through nam and simran. He thanked Dr Soch for his sincere efforts for the of establishment of this chair.

Seminar on Namdhari movement on May 8
Tribune News Service

Ludhiana, April 25
Sri Satguru Ram Singh Chair established at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, is holding the first-ever seminar on "Namdhari Movement-History, culture and contributions" at Sri Bhaini Sahib, on May 8 and 9.

The seminar will be inaugurated by the Chief Minister, Mr Parkash Singh Badal, who will also preside over the function. Dr Harbhajan Singh Soch, Vice-Chancellor of the varsity, will also address the seminar wherein several delegates from within the country and abroad will participate.

In this connection a meeting was held here yesterday in which Mr Harvinder Singh Hanspal, president of Namdhari Darbar and former MP, Dr Satinder Singh, head of Satguru Ram Singh Chair, and Sant Surinder Singh Namdhari (trustee) were present.

Shankaracharya meets Namdhari Guru
Seeks support on cow protection
Tribune News Service

Ludhiana, September 9
Muslims have also come forward to join the movement against cow slaughter in the country. Disclosing this here today, Shankaracharya Jyotishpith Adeshwar Swami of Madhav Ashram told The Tribune that the Imam of the Fatehpuri Masjid, Delhi, Maulana Mufti Mohammed Latif, had offered his support to the cow protection movement being launched in the country.

The Shankararacharya, on a nationwide tour to garner support for cow protection, today met the Namdhari Guru, Baba Jagjit Singh in the Gurdwara Bhaini Sahib near here seeking his support for cow protection. He said the purpose was to involve people of all sects in this movement.

The Shankaracharya said a rally was being organised under the banner of All-Party Cow Protection Movement on November 7 to mark the martyrdom of those who had laid down their lives for the protection of cows in 1969. At that time the movement was spearheaded by Swami Kripatriji Maharaj.

The Namdhari Guru assured the Shankaracharya of maximum participation by Namdharis in the rally.

The rally, the Shankaracharya said, would urge the Central Government to enact a legislation for the protection of cows in the country. A memorandum would be submitted to the Prime Minister on the same. A memorandum had been submitted to the Prime Minister earlier too.

In order to mobilise support for the rally, a “gauraksha yatra” would start from Brindabhan on September 30. It would pass through seven states — Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Delhi, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab. In Punjab the yatra would pass through all major cities including Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar and Patiala, besides Chandigarh.

As part of the campaign, a “gau raksha abhiyan” had already got the signatures of 200 MPs. The MPs belonged to all parties.

The tree on which two Namdharis attained martyrdom
Tribune News Service

LUDHIANA, June 12,2000 — The sight of an over 150-year-old banyan tree, better known as the 'Shaheedi-bohr (banyan) 'in Kuka Memorial Centre near the Field Gunj area of the old city sends a chill down one's spine. For, this tree was a mute witness to the hanging of two Namdhari freedom fighters, from one of its branches way back in 1871. The two had dared speak against the British Raj.

Time seems to have stood still since then. A perceptible but mysterious gloominess engulfs the place. Tough the green leaves of the tree infuse some life in the picture, but one cannot help imagining the 130- year-old scene when Giani Rattan Singh and Sant Rattan Singh, the two Namdharis, were hanged from one of its branches in full public view for having forcibly closed down a number of slaughterhouses opened by the British in the state.

While the branch is no more, the tree still stands as a living remnant of the cruelty of the British to curb the then fast-spreading Kuka Movement of the country's freedom struggle. The premises called the Kuka Memorial is being managed by the Namdharis sect under the banner of the Kuka Shaheedi Memorial Trust. A befitting memorial announcing the martyrdom of the two freedom fighters

and the glorification of their sacrifice has been erected under the tree. Another board at back of the tree shows a painting of the hanging scenes along with the brief commentary of the hanging scene.

The Kuka Movement derived its name from the Punjabi word kook which means a vociferous scream. In the case of the Namdharis, it was the scream for freedom and was popularised by their unique mode of shouting for Independence.

While the Kukas were already determined to throw out the British, the latter opened slaughterhouses in various parts of state where meat of cow and pig (holy to Hindus and Muslims) was made available. This sparked off a series of protests in various parts of the country and the Kuka became the torch-bearers of the campaign. Giani Rattan Singh and Sant Rattan Singh were among the enthusiastic activists of the movement who together organised an attack on one of the slaughterhouses in the city.

According to Namdhari Dalip Singh, a senior member of the sect, the British had opened the slaughterhouses with an aim of terrorising the Indians and telling them in no compromising terms that they are slaves of the English who can enact any law and undergo any activity even if it hurts the psyche or sentiments of the Hindustanis.

It was the mindest which the Namdharis aimed to break. They launched attacks on the slaughterhouses and razed them to the ground. The infuriated the British who responded with the more cruel method of oppression by hanging the revolutionaries in full public view without even covering their faces so that the pain one suffers because of asphyxia is seen and the other anti-British moves by the Indians are discouraged.

Namdhari Ajit Singh, Secretary of the Namdhari Sabha, said while before Independence, they fought for rights against the British, after the country's freedom, the fight continued with the Indian government for possession of the tree and the adjoining land to erect a memorial of the martyrs. It was only during the government of the late Beant Singh that the Namdharis were given the land on the token payment of Re 1 per square yard.

He revealed that now the SAD-BJP government had approved the Namdharis' project of constructing a multi-storey complex for multi-religious discourses. The construction work is expected to commence shortly.

In spite of these belated acknowledgements on the part of the state government, the Namdharis still have a fight on their hands — their revered martyrs have not been given due importance by the historians. The Central Government, also, has not enlisted them as freedom fighters.

Apollo to open hospital in city

Our Correspondent

Ludhiana, March 3 2005

Satguru Partap Singh Apollo Hospitals, a joint venture of Apollo Hospitals and SJS Holdings Ltd, will commence the out patient department (OPD), laboratories and diagnostic facilities in the city on March 28. The 350-bedded multi-speciality hospital will open admissions to 175 beds in the initial phase.

Addressing mediapersons here today, Mr Jugdiep Singh, Director of the company, said the Apollo group was successfully running 23 hospitals in 14 countries. In India, the group had established 13 hospitals and 14 facilitation centres attached to these hospitals.

Dr G. Awasthy, a former Head of the Medicine Department of Dayanand Medical College and Hospital, who has joined as Director, Medical Services, Apollo, said the institution would endeavour to provide best of medical treatment. He said a special fund would be created to make available highly subsidised medical care to the poor.

Dr Prabbhjot Singh Bhatia, Medical Superintendent, said the hospital would have a comprehensive radiology department.

Besides other senior medical and administrative personnel of the institution, Dr S.P. Singh, a nominee of the Apollo group, and Mr Dalip Singh Naamdhari were present.

Tributes paid to Namdhari martyrs
Tribune News Service
Ludhiana, December 8,2002
Rich tributes were paid to Namdhari martyrs Suba Giani Rattan Singh and Sant Rattan Singh, who were hanged in the old jail complex in 1871 during the freedom movement, at a function organised at Namdhari Shaheed Smarak on Jail Road, here today.
Namdhari sangat, from all parts of the country and abroad, thronged the smarak of the martyrs to pay tributes.
Speaking on the occasion, Dr Kewal Krishan, Speaker, Punjab Vidhan Sabha, said the country was indebted to the martyrs.
He said Guru Ram Singh was the founder of the freedom movement and launched noncooperation movement against the British and his followers made sacrifices while displaying exemplary spirit of patriotism.
He said Namdhari Darbar had inducted discipline in the community and the sangat was following the preachings of Guru Jagjit Singh.
He said the mission of Guru Ram Singh was relevant in today's world also. Following footsteps of Namdhari Darbar, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh had launched a crusade to eliminate corruption from the state administration, added Dr Krishan. He also announced a grant of Rs 50,000 for the development of the shaheedi smarak.

Mr Kushal Behal, Education Minister, while paying tributes to the martyrs, said Namdharis had remained at the forefront of the freedom movement and the Congress had its origin in the Namdhari movement and its philosophy. He said 25 lakhs Namdharis were still practicing the principles of Guru Ram Singh to eradicate social evils like dowry, female foeticide and use of intoxicants from the society.

He said the state government, in its new education policy, had launched a campaign to revamp the education system. In schools and colleges, students would be given quality education so that they could compete in international-level competitions, he added.

Mr Gurcharan Singh Galib, MP, said the country was indebted to Namdhari Darbar, which had initiated the freedom movement. He exhorted all to remember martyrs and follow their footsteps.

Mr Anurag Agarwal, Deputy Commissioner, also paid tributes to the martyrs and assured that the administration would extend all assistance to beautify their smaraks.

Guru Jagjit Singh said the sangat should work towards creating awareness against intoxicants and other social evils prevailing in the society.

Tributes paid to Satguru Ram Singh Ji
Tribune News Service

Bhaini Sahib (Ludhiana), February 6,2003
Rich tributes were paid to Satguru Ram Singh Ji, one of the architects of the Freedom Struggle and founder of the Non-Cooperation Movement, at a state-level function organised by the Punjab Government to mark his 188th birth anniversary (parkash utsav) at the headquarter of the Namdhari Sect, about 20 km from here today.

While the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, could not make it to the function due to other engagements, others who paid their tributes included Mr H.S. Hanspal, President, Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee, Mr Tej Parkash Singh, Transport Minister, Punjab, Mr Jasjit Singh Randhawa, Public Health Minister, Dr Harbans Lal, Minister of State, Mr Gurcharan Singh Galib, MP, Mr Malkiat Singh Dakha, Mr Malkiat Singh Birmi and Mr Amrik Singh, all MLAs.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Hanspal said Satguru Ram Singh Ji had launched a well-organised movement against the British rule. He had waged a Non-Cooperation Movement by boycotting the services of British rulers and setting up schools, postal and judicial systems. "The Namdhari movement launched by Sat Guru Ram Singh Ji was, in reality, a revival of the Sikhism. The Namdhari Sect

had spread fast and the number of the followers had gone up to 60,000 within 10 years, thereby posing a serious threat to the British Empire."

The PPCC Chief regretted that the part of the sacrifices by Punjabis, particularly by Sikhs, had been deliberately undermined in the history of the country, which he demanded to be amended accordingly. He said Satguru Ram Singh was a far-sighted leader, who, during his struggle, had created administrative system right from panchayats to state-levels, which had played a frontal role in strengthening the foundation of the freedom struggle. He described the founder of the secta as an unmatched social reformer, who developed his own social system which had no place for social evils like dowry, casteism, killing of girl child and intoxicants.

Mr Tej Parkash Singh, who represented the Chief Minister of Punjab, while paying his tributes to Sat Guru Ram Singh Ji remarked that he was a great social reformers, who struggled throughout his life to eradicate the social evils in the society. "Sat Guru Ram Singh had created a strong force of Namdhari patriots, who made enormous sacrifices while fighting the British." He announced that the state government would implement concrete programmes and policies to give shape to dreams of Sat Guru Ram Singh of providing equal opportunities to everybody in the state without any discrimination.

Sat Guru Jagjit Singh Ji, present head of Namdhari Darbar, in his religious sermon, advised the people to implement the directions of Sat Guru Ram Singh Ji of complete social boycott of the killers of girl childs.

Among others who addressed the function were Mr Jasjit Singh Randhawa, State Minister for Public Health, Dr Harbans Lal, state Minister for Forest, Mr Satinder Singh Noor, Head Sat Guru Ram Singh Chair, Guru Nanak Dev University, Mr Gurbhajan Singh Gill, Vice-President, Punjab Sahitya Academy, Sant Dalip Singh and Mr Gurdip Singh Bhaini.

Rich tributes paid to Baba Ram Singh
From Vimal Sumbly
Tribune News Service

RAYIANA (LUDHIANA), Jan 29 — Glowing tributes were paid to Satguru Ram Singh, the founder of the Kuka movement, on his 186th birth anniversary here today.

A simple but impressive function was organised here in his native village, which was attended by hundreds of people belonging to different sects and ideologies.

The state government had declared Satguru Ram Singh's birth anniversary as a holiday today and had organised the function to mark the event. However, the Namdhari sect leader Satguru Jagjit Singh did not attend today's function since he was said to be in Delhi. The Finance Minister, Capt Kanwaljeet Singh, who was scheduled to preside over the function, also failed to arrive here till late in the afternoon.

The Minister for Information and Public Relations, Mr Natha Singh Dalam, announced that a life-size portrait of Satguru Ram Singh would be installed in the Central Hall of the Punjab Assembly before the beginning of the budget session. He also promised that work on all memorials of Namdhari martyrs would be completed this year.

Mr Dalam said the Union Minister for Railways, Ms Mamata Banerjee, had conceded the plea of the Punjab Government and approved the installation of a life-size portrait of Satguru Ram Singh at Ludhiana Railway Station. He said Satguru Ram Singh's portrait would always serve as a source of inspiration for the coming generations, reminding them of his great sacrifice for the freedom of the country.

The minister said Satguru Ram Singh was a master organiser and moblised the masses for non-cooperation and boycott of all government institutions. At the same time, he also waged a war against the evil social customs prevailing in the country at that time. The British feared the Namdhari so much that they blew up a number of them through canons at Malerkotla.

He announced that the state government had drawn up a comprehensive plan for the development of Bhaini Sahib, the headquarters of Namdharis and the Raiyan, village the birth place of Satguru Ram Singh. A development board had already been set up for the purpose and a sewerage project costing Rs 40 lakh was being laid out in Bhaini Sahib.

The state government had also set up a Satguru Ram Singh Chair at Guru Nanak Dev University, which would carry out research on philosophy. The state government

had approached the Union Human Resource Development Ministry for including the contribution of Namdharis in the freedom struggle in school syllabi.

Mr Surinder Singh, vice-president, Namdhari Darbar, appreciated the efforts of the government in setting up Namdhari memorials.

Satguru Partap Singh Apollo Hospitals

Ludhiana is home to many of the leading industrial groups in India. SPS Apollo Hospitals, a 350 bed state of the art hospital, was set up in Ludhiana in the year 2005

This iconic landmark on GT Road has set new standards in healthcare, hitherto unheard of in this part of India. It all began with the desire of his holiness Satguru Partap Singhji, to have a world class health facility in Punjab to alleviate the sufferings of humanity, by offering them quality and affordable health care. This dream was fulfilled was by the present head of the Namdhari Sangat, his holiness Jagjit Singhji.
His holiness Satguru Jagjit Singhji called upon Thakur Uday Singhji, The Chairman of SPS Apollo Hospitals, to fulfill his holiness Satguru Partap Singh ji's dream of setting a super speciality hospital in Punjab.

Thakur Uday Singhji, a visionary and a leading Industrialist having diverse business interests in Bangalore, set out on the noble mission of setting up a super speciality hospital in Ludhiana in accordance with Satguruji's wish.

Thakur Uday Singhji entrusted the mantle of overseeing the commissioning of this prestigious project to Shri Jugdiep Singh, the Managing Director of SPS Apollo Hospitals. Under the able leadership of Shri Jugdiep Singh,

this hospital was constructed and commissioned in the year 2005. The hospital was inaugurated in the year 2005 by the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh.

Satguru Partap Singh Apollo Hospitals

Set up under the auspices of Satguruji, this hospital was founded on the following core principles :

- Ethics
- Transparency
- Quality and affordability

It hardly came as a surprise to everyone, when this hospital became the first hospital in South East Asia to achieve the prestigious JCI accreditation within two years of operations.

JCI accreditation brought with it a new set of challenges. The challenge of maintaining the highest standards of excellence, the challenge of attending to each and every patient with a single-minded dedication and the challenge of improving continuously with every passing day.
SPS Apollo Hospital has scored very high on all these parameters. At SPS Apollo Hospitals, the hospital has the most eminent panel of medical professionals, well trained paramedical staff and the most caring nursing

professionals. Backing them are the latest state-of- the-art equipments and the best infrastructure supported by cutting edge technology.

The Managing Director of SPS Apollo Hospitals

Jugdiep Singh, the Managing Director of SPS Apollo Hospitals is a visionary and a management professional who leads from the front. He has been instrumental in making this hospital what it is today. His pioneering and spirited efforts have helped this hospital scale one peak after another. Be it JCI accreditation, or the commissioning of the hospital at one of the lowest capital costs in the country, or be it our achievement of clocking a sales CAGR of 83 per cent since inception and breaking even in a period of three years.

A firm believer in the core values of ethics and transparency, he has been successful in building up a strong team of professionals equally committed to the core values of the hospital. He has been able to foster a spirit of camaraderie amongst all medical, para-medical and administration professionals resulting in highest standards of medical- care being provided to patients.

Right from the stage of patient admission till the stage of discharge, all medical and non-medical activities are meticulously reviewed by him. It is to his credit that

treatment procedures at SPS Apollo Hospitals are orchestrated in a highly coordinated and professional manner and that too at a cost which is very affordable.

Medical Milestones

- India's youngest premature baby (at 24 weeks gestation) treated at SPS Apollo.
- Rare combined hip replacement and cardiac bypass surgery on a 75-year-old male. There has been no such case reported in medical literature.
- First rotating platform knee replacement in the region.
- Successful knee replacement surgery on a 99-year-old lady.
- First to perform awake craniotomy in the region.
- First to perform bariatric (weight loss) surgery north of Delhi.
- First to introduce mini-incision hip replacement surgery in Punjab and neighbouring states.